

Iowa Fishing Report

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The Iowa Department of Natural Resources issues a weekly fishing report on Thursdays in an effort to provide the latest information heading into the weekend. The weekly fishing report is compiled from information gathered from local bait shops, angler creel surveys, and county and state parks staff. For current information, contact the district fisheries office at the phone number listed at the end of each district report.

SOUTHWEST

Lake Icaria

The lake level is normal, the water temperature is 50 and the water clarity is good.

Green Valley Lake

The lake level is down 9 feet for a sediment removal project. The main concrete ramp is operational and accessible. The lake has a lot of nice sized fish of all species. The water temperature is 50. Water clarity is good.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Channel Catfish	Fair	A few channel catfish are biting on crawlers.

Three Mile Lake

The water temperature is back below 50. Water clarity is good.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Walleye	Slow	Very few walleye are biting. The mounds and the base of the dam are the only areas producing fish.

Twelve Mile Creek Lake

The water temperature is 50. Water clarity is very good.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bullhead	Fair	A few giant bullheads are biting from above the silt dike at the upper end of the lake. Crawlers on the bottom are the most effective.
Walleye	Slow	The walleye have moved out to the mounds and creek channel edges.

Mt. Ayr District Farm Ponds

Several ponds are producing good panfish angling. Water temperatures are warmer than most lakes.

Water temperatures have slipped below 50 at most lakes. Water clarity is still above normal at most places.

Greenfield Lake

Greenfield has one concrete boat ramp and is trolling motor only. Lake is full.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Crappie	Slow	Crappies have slowed but a few are being caught along the dam using small jigs. Sorting is necessary for larger fish.
Largemouth Bass	Fair	Largemouth bass are being caught using jigs in the cedar tree piles and along the dam.

Nodaway Lake

Nodaway has 1 concrete boat ramp. Crappie bite should pickup with warmer weather.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Channel Catfish	Fair	Catfish are being caught in the upper end of the lake using dead minnows.
Crappie	Fair	Crappies up to 8 inches are being caught on the dam casting small jigs.

Lake Anita

The crappie bite should improve this week with forcasted warm sunny days. Fish the north arm around the pontoons and around the jetties.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Crappie	Fair	Crappies up to 10 inches are being caught on jigs under a bobber.
Largemouth Bass	Fair	Largemouth bass are being caught along the road beds and in brush piles.

Willow Lake

Willow lake has one concrete boat ramp and excellent water clarity.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Crappie	Fair	A few 9 inch crappies are being caught along the dam and around jetties.

Viking Lake

Viking Lake fish populations are coming back following the 2006 renovation. The lake has 3 concrete boat ramps and good water quality.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Channel Catfish	Fair	Channel catfish are being caught using dead minnows. Fish average 2-3 pounds.
Largemouth Bass	Fair	Largemouth bass up to 18 inches are being caught around cedar tree piles.

Lake Manawa

Crappies fishing will improve this week. The canals and around docks have been producing the most fish. Catfish are biting on dead minnows.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Channel Catfish	Fair	Channel catfish are being caught on the windy shorelines using dead minnows.
Crappie	Fair	Crappies up to 12 inches are on jigs and minnows in the canals and around docks.

Cold Springs District Farm Ponds

Farm ponds typically warm quickly and can provide good early season fishing. Larger ponds with crappie populations are good now as crappies are close to shore preparing to spawn. Remember to always get permission to fish private farm ponds.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Slow	Bluegill fishing has been slow with the cool water temperatures. Try fishing deep structure with small jigs and a slow retrieve.
Crappie	Fair	Cast small jigs alone dam for best success.
Largemouth Bass	Fair	Largemouth are being caught next to shore on sunny days casting small spinner baits using a slow retrieve.

Very little fishing has taken place last week because of cool wet weather. Forcasted warmer temperatures will improve fishing. Water temperatures are around 50 degrees. For more information on fishing call the S.W. District Office at (712) 769-2587.

Rock Creek Lake

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Crappie	Fair	Just before the cool, wet weather set in crappies were starting to be caught near shore. Good crappie fishing should return as soon as we get a couple days of sun and warmer weather.

Big Creek Lake

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Walleye	Fair	Walleye are being caught on jigs, soft swim baits, crank baits, and minnows. The fish are being caught in the east ramp bay, the dam, and any jetties on the south half of the lake. Most fish being caught are sublegal, but fish over 15 inches are coming in.

Saylorville Reservoir

Fish Name	Status	Comments
White Bass	Fair	Increased flow over the Big Creek spillway is attracting white bass. An occasional crappie is also being caught.

Ada Hayden Heritage Park Lake

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Rainbow Trout	Fair	Anglers are still catching the rainbow trout that were stocked through the ice. The block net was lifted at ice-out and trout are now spread to both pits. Small minnows under a bobber are working well.

Des Moines River (Stratford to Saylorville Lake)

Fish Name	Status	Comments
White Bass	Good	Anglers casting twister tails below the Saylorville spillway are catching some good size white bass up to 15 inches.

Little has changed since last week. Cool, wet weather continued to lead to little fishing activity and few reports. Sunshine and warmer temps at the end of this week should begin to move panfish in for the spawn. Water temps are in the upper 40's, with smaller lakes and farm ponds a little warmer. For information on central Iowa lakes and rivers contact Ben Dodd or Andy Otting at 515-432-2823.

SOUTHEAST

Red Haw Lake

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Fair	Use small jigs fished along shoreline structure and around submerged structure in 6-10 feet of water.
Largemouth Bass	Fair	Use rubber worms along the shoreline structure.

Hawthorn Lake (aka Barnes City Lake)

The lake had been drained for a lake renovation but work is now complete. New fish habitat areas have been built along with some new jetties. The gate has been closed and the lake is now starting to fill.

Lake Sugema

The water temperature is in the low 50's.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Largemouth Bass	Fair	Some nice bass are being caught. Use a jig n' pig combo or try slow rolling spinnerbaits. Fish areas with submerged structure.

Ottumwa Lagoon

Trout were stocked on Saturday, March 19th. Try using spinners, worms, or other trout bait.

Rathbun Reservoir

The lake level is at 906.25 with 904.0 being normal pool. Water temperatures have been running in the low to mid 50's. Fishing has been slow with the cool water temperatures. Warmer water temperatures will help improve fishing. Crappie anglers should try deeper water areas first and then move shallower as the water temperatures rise. Anglers are reminded that walleyes have been tagged in Lake Rathbun and if tagged fish are caught please report the tag to the hatchery at 641-647-2406.

For further fishing reports in south central Iowa please call the Rathbun fish hatchery at 641-647-2406

Iowa Lake

Fishing has slowed down during this colder weather.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Fair	
Crappie	Slow	

Kent Park Lake

Some bass and bluegills are being caught in the ponds, but the lake has been pretty slow yet.

Lake Macbride

Any sized motor may be used at no wake speed at this time. Water temps are right at 50 degrees now in the main lake.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Crappie	Fair	Fish in the 9-12" range are common. Fish around submerged brush/trees with a slip bobber/minnow or jig. The upper ends of the lake have been the warmest and most productive.
Walleye	Fair	Some fish have been caught jigging over structure, and some fish have been caught trolling crankbaits.

Central Park Lake

Fishing has been very slow due to the weather.

Pleasant Creek Lake

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Largemouth Bass	Fair	Some bass are being caught now, but size has been smaller. Remember, largemouth have to be 18" to keep here.
White Bass	Good	Fish are starting to school up now and prepare for the spawn. Evening has been the most productive time. White or yellow jigs have seemed to be the best, but small spinners or crankbaits can also be productive.

Diamond Lake

Remember, minnows are not allowed here.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Fair	Fish around brush piles. Reports say that just a bobber and small worm has been producing well.
Crappie	Fair	Size has been a bit small (8") but numbers are good. During the warm weather, fish have been caught right along the shoreline on small jigs.

Otter Creek Lake

The fish cleaning station is now open.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Fair	Fish around brush with small worms or jigs.

Union Grove Lake

There has been little or no fishing activity here since the poor weather. Fishing had been good for bluegills and crappies around brush and rock during the warmer weather.

Coralville Reservoir

The current lake level as of April 28 is 689.8' and still slowly rising. Current predictions show the lake cresting at 690.8' on May 2.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Channel Catfish	Fair	Anglers are still catching catfish on cut bait and some on nightcrawlers. The upper end of the lake has still been best. Anglers have also been trying in the feeder creeks and where creeks enter the lake.

Iowa River (Coralville Lake to River Junction)

Current flows coming out of Coralville Reservoir are 6000 CFS and are predicted to remain at this flow for the foreseeable future.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Channel Catfish	Slow	The bite has slowed a bit due to water temperature and changes in water flow.

For more information, contact the Lake Macbride Fisheries Station at 319-624-3615.

Lake Geode

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Largemouth Bass	Fair	Anglers have been catching some nice largemouth bass along the weedlines during the warmer afternoons.

Lake Belva Deer

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Crappie	Fair	A few anglers are picking up crappies along the old creek channel in 8 to 10 feet of water using tube jigs tipped with minnows.

Pollmiller Park Lake

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Crappie	Fair	During the warmer days there are few crappies being caught back in the coves. It might be worth a try later this week with the forecasted warmer weather.

Lake of the Hills

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Channel Catfish	Slow	Look for the catfishing to pick up with the return of warmer weather. Target the sunny bays with night crawlers as with all the recent rains the catfish should be looking for them now.
Largemouth Bass	Slow	If the weather warms up as forecasted look for them to return to the shallows to feed when the water warms up.
Rainbow Trout	Good	Look for where there is flow from the other lakes into the lake. They are still hitting on a variety of baits.

Wilson Lake

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Largemouth Bass	Good	A lot of small bass are being caught while people are fishing for trout.
Rainbow Trout	Excellent	Trout are being caught on small jigs, flies, and a variety of small spinners. A worm on a hook 2 to 3 feet below a bobber is also working.

Skunk River (Coppock to Mississippi River)

Look for the river to continue to come up until it's within a couple of feet from being bankfull.

English River

The English river was forecasted to crest on the 27th before it slowly starts to fall.

Iowa River (Columbus Junction to Mississippi River)

The river is forecasted to be rising fairly steadily until it's within a couple feet of being bankfull.

Big Hollow Lake

This new lake down in Des Moines county is starting to get some attention from the anglers. Go to the Des Moines County Conservation Board Website for more details about its location and a contour map of the lake.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Fair	The bluegills are being found around the jetties and shallow timber. Worm and bobber seem to be working the best.
Channel Catfish	Fair	Average size is running between 10-14". Nightcrawlers fishing around the creek channel and gully bottoms are where I would start.
Largemouth Bass	Excellent	While these fish are running just below the legal length they are lots of them and they're hungry. Work the abundant woody habitat and along the jetties. Night crawlers or topwater baits to catch them.

Lake Odessa

The ramps at Odessa remain underwater as the water level has been brought up to help prevent damage to the levee from the rising Mississippi. The Toolesboro road is also closed as water is going over the spillway. AS the river level goews down so will the level in Odessa.

For more information on the above rivers and lakes call the Lake Darling Fisheries Office at (319) 694-2430.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER

Mississippi River Pool 19

Tailwater stage at Lock and Dam 18 is 15.39 feet and falling. Floodstage is 10 feet. Fishing has been slow due to the high water conditions.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	No Report	
Channel Catfish	No Report	
Crappie	No Report	
Walleye	No Report	
White Bass	No Report	

Mississippi River Pool 18

Tailwater stage at Lock and Dam 17 is 19.88 feet and falling. Floodstage is 15 feet.
Fishing has been slow due to the high water conditions.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	No Report	
Channel Catfish	No Report	
Crappie	No Report	
Walleye	No Report	
White Bass	No Report	

Mississippi River Pool 17

Tailwater stage at Lock and Dam 16 is 18.94 feet and falling. Floodstage is 15 feet.
Fishing has been slow due to the high water conditions.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	No Report	
Channel Catfish	No Report	
Crappie	No Report	
Walleye	No Report	
White Bass	No Report	

Mississippi River Pool 16

Tailwater stage at Lock and Dam 15 is 18.65 feet and falling. Floodstage is 15 feet. Fishing has been slow due to the high water conditions.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	No Report	
Channel Catfish	No Report	
Crappie	No Report	
Walleye	No Report	
White Bass	No Report	

Pools 16-19: River stage is still above flood stage throughout the pools. Boat ramps are under water throughout the pools. Fishing has been slow due to the high water conditions. Most fishing reports are coming from area lakes and ponds. For more fishing information on Pools 16-19 contact the Fairport Fish Hatchery at 563-263-5062.

Mississippi River Pool 11

River level at Guttenberg is 15.1 and expected to stay near that level over the course of the next week. Guttenberg city ramp is still closed but the DNR ramp is open again. At the DNR ramp, if water levels raise at all it may be difficult to put in and parking is limited so those putting in will have to park on side streets.

Mississippi River Pool 10

River level at Lynxville is 23.6 and expected to stay near that level over the course of the next week. Boat ramp at Harpers Ferry is still open but Sny Magill and Bussey Lake ramps are still closed.

Mississippi River Pool 9

River level at Lansing is 13.2 and expected to stay near that level over the course of the next week. Village Creek ramp is open but Army Road Ramp at New Albin is still closed.

River levels on the Upper Mississippi have fallen but are still near flood stage in most areas and expected to remain that way over the next week. Some boat ramps are beginning to open up but many others are still flooded or closed for clean up. Boaters should be cautious of floating debris. Water temp is 50 degrees.

NORTHEAST

Cedar River (Nashua to La Porte City)

Current conditions on the Cedar River have water levels dropping. Anglers have been doing well on channel catfish on the Cedar River in Bremer County.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Channel Catfish	Good	Dead cut baits or minnows fished on the bottom in slack water areas has been productive on channel catfish.

Shell Rock River (Greene to Shell Rock)

The Shell Rock River is starting to drop again after a slight rise, conditions should be favorable again with little or no major rainfall events.

Wapsi River (Tripoli to Troy Mills)

The Wapsi River is dropping in Buchanan County and the river stage is currently at 7.7 feet.

Manchester District Streams

Trout streams are clear once again and should be good by the weekend. Call the Manchester District Office for the most recent conditions @ 563-927-3276.

The interior rivers are falling due to recent rainfall events and should only improve with no additional heavy rains. Anglers are reporting good catfish angling on the Cedar River in Bremer County. Trout streams in the Manchester District are running clear and should be good for the upcoming weekend. For further information contact the Manchester District Office @ 563-927-3276.

Volga Lake

Recent weather has slowed some angling activity.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Crappie	Slow	Try using a small jig tipped with a waxworm over structure. Fish should be starting to hang around the shallower warmer water.

Lake Hendricks

A few anglers have been out but not much action is happening.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Slow	
Crappie	Slow	Anglers are using waxworms with some luck.
Largemouth Bass	Slow	

Lake Meyer

Water temperatures are still cool and fish activity is slow.

Upper Iowa River (above Decorah)

Water levels around Decorah are about 1ft high and running muddy. Fish activity is slow.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Sucker	Slow	Anglers should try using a slip bobber and a hook tipped with a worm.

Upper Iowa River (below Decorah)

Water levels on the Upper Iowa around Dorchester are up around 1.5ft and muddy. Anglers continue reporting activity from HWY 76 bridge to the mouth.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Northern Pike	Slow	Pike have been caught using crankbaits while fishing for walleye.
Smallmouth Bass	Slow	
Sucker	Slow	
Walleye	Slow	
Yellow Perch	Slow	Anglers are drifting a small chunk of worm on a hook with a slip bobber.

Wapsi River (state line to Tripoli)

We have received no information regarding fishing on this water body this week.

Cedar River (above Nashua)

The Cedar River at Charles City is up about 3ft. and muddy.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Channel Catfish	Slow	
Northern Pike	No Report	
Walleye	No Report	

Decorah District Streams

Although the Dark Hendrickson hatches in NE Iowa are dwindling and reaching their season's end, Blue Wing Olive hatches have remained very heavy. #16 and #18 Blue Wing Olive, Blue Wing Quill, Two-Feathered and Adams dry flies have all variously taken many trout. Blue Wing Olive hatches often begin mid-morning and last throughout the day. For stocking information, please call 563-927-5736 or visit our website.

Area lakes are slowly warming and action is slow. Rivers are up about 1ft to 3ft depending on the river. They are also running muddy. Anglers on the Shell Rock River around Marble Rock has been doing well for walleyes. Trout streams are in good condition but flows and water conditions will vary at this time. For more information, please contact the Decorah Fish Hatchery at 563-382-8324.

NORTHWEST

Lake Pahoja

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Crappie	Good	Anglers are starting to catch crappies in shallow water.

Big Spirit Lake

Remember that walleye opener is next Saturday, May 7th at midnight.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bullhead	Fair	Some fish are starting to be caught along the north grade.
Crappie	Fair	Crappie fishing has picked up on warmer days in protected shallow areas on the lake.
Smallmouth Bass	Fair	Some fish were reported last week. Try fishing along rocky shorelines and points.
White Bass	Slow	Try fishing along rocky bottoms near Jackson point

East Okoboji Lake

Fish Name	Status	Comments
White Bass	Fair	Anglers are catching white bass on the north side of the lake, the highway 9 bridge, and along the west shoreline near highway 71.
Yellow Bass	Fair	Some yellow bass are being reported while fishing rocky shorelines for white bass

Silver Lake (Dickinson)

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bullhead	Good	Anglers are reporting catches of bullhead at inlet areas of the lake.

West Okoboji Lake

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Good	Try fishing along docks in shallow bays.

Little Sioux River (state line to Linn Grove)

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Walleye	Good	Try using a jig and minnow with slow presentation.

Area lakes are starting to pick up on sunny days, but water temperatures are still in the low to mid 40s in many lakes.

Clear Lake

This past weekend boat anglers were catching walleye on the reefs as well as around Dodge's point and the island using live bait. Shore anglers have been having success catching walleye from the fishing club dock and at McIntosh State Park in the evenings. Remember the 14 inch minimum length limit on walleye. Yellow bass fishing remains slow yet, but a few have been caught in the little lake in the shallows.

Bluebill Lake

A few anglers have reported catching panfish and largemouth bass from shore with live bait.

For more fishing information contact the Clear Lake Fish and Wildlife station at 641-357-3517.

Crawford Creek Impoundment

Fishing for bluegill and crappie has been slow. Anglers have been catching some bass from the south shore fishing in the old creek channel.

Brushy Creek Lake

Water levels are up. Docks are in. Not a lot of fishing activity yet.

Storm Lake (incl Little Storm Lake)

Anglers are allowed three walleye per day, all fish between 17 and 22 inches must be released, only one of the three fish can be over 22 inches. Boaters should use caution on Storm Lake. The hydraulic dredge is in operation in the east basin of the lake. There is a pipeline running from the dredge to the shoreline and may rise to the surface at times.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Walleye	Fair	Anglers are reporting a very light bite on minnows under a bobber. Give the fish time to take the bait before setting the hook. Fish with a slip bobber 15 to 20 feet out from shore set at about 3.5 feet. Some anglers are still catching their limit this way.

Swan Lake

A few small bluegills are being caught around the fish house.

Black Hawk Lake

Fishing is about the same as last week.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Channel Catfish	Fair	Fish the windward shorelines or look for currents. Fish on the bottom with gizzard shad guts or cut bait. A lot of 3 to 4 pound channel cats are being caught.
Walleye	Slow	Some walleye are being caught from the east shore. Float a live minnow under a bobber and fish just off the bottom. Also, try casting a 2 inch white or fire tiger twister.
Yellow Bass	Slow	Some nice yellow bass were caught last week, but fishing has slowed for them. Try casting a small, bright colored jig along the windward shorelines.

Browns Lake

Navigational buoys are now in the lake.

Snyder Bend Lake

Navigational buoys are now in the lake.

Arrowhead Lake

Nice sized bluegill have been biting in the north end of Arrowhead. Some anglers have been targeting the south end of Arrowhead.

Little Sioux River (Linn Grove to Correctionville)

A few walleye and northern pike have been caught below the Linn Grove Dam.

Fishing has remained slow, but the weather is looking better for this weekend. For more information on lakes and rivers in this area contact Ben Wallace or Don Herrig at the Black Hawk District Office in Lake View at 712-657-2638.